

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Chairman Shuster:

Thank you for your recent visit to Cleveland, OH and your remarks as the keynote speaker at the Build Up Greater Cleveland (BUGC) Annual Meeting.

Additionally, congratulations to you and the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure for the introduction of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013.

As a public-private partnership focused on the leveraging transportation and infrastructure to create economic development, we strongly support passage and implementation this legislation that is critical to the nation's economy and the Greater Cleveland region.

We are pleased with the language included in the bill that identifies and governs the management of the Great Lakes Navigation System. Implementation of these measures is critical to the operation of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, a BUGC partner, as well as the many businesses that rely on access to the Great Lakes and other inland waterways to be competitive within the global marketplace.

The Great Lakes region's waterways are critical to the movement of commodities and finished goods to and from Ohio, including \$39.9 billion in manufactured goods, \$11.5 billion of basic chemicals, and \$7.6 billion of non-metallic minerals. WRRDA identifies and recognizes the interconnectivity that exists within the system and the need to maintain efficient and cost-effective modes of transportation.

Thank you again for your work to create the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 and for identifying the need to manage the Great Lakes as a Navigation System. We look forward to the passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

Debra K. Berry
Chair
Build Up Greater Cleveland

Cc: The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment

